

1-20. (CANCELED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a driver's voice, the method comprising the steps of:

issuing a voice command (20) to a voice command input device;

converting the voice command to an electronic command signal and outputting the electronic command signal to a voice command convertor device (20) having a memory\_(22);

comparing the electronic command signal from the driver with a plurality of reference voice commands electronically stored in the memory (22) to determine a desired one of the reference voice commands;

forming a transmission control signal based on the determined desired one of the voice commands in a transmission control (6);

calculating a shift signal in the transmission control (6); and

~~changing the~~ directly overriding a shift signal generated by ~~the~~ transmission control (6) ~~according to the transmission control signal~~ with the electronic command signal generated by the driver's voice command to obtain a new shift signal and executing the transmission shift solely according to the new shift signal which is appropriate for the driving situation.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a driver's voice according to claim 21, the method further comprising the steps of providing the number of gear steps during a change of a reduction ratio both in the upshifts and also in the downshifts via a driver's command issued to the voice command device (20).

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a driver's voice according to claim 21, the method further comprising the steps of providing special driving programs, such as economy, sports programs and winter programs via a driver's command issued to the voice command device (20).

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a driver's voice according to claim 21, the method further comprising the step of suppressing the creeping of the vehicle via a driver's command issued to the voice command device (20).

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a driver's voice according to claim 21, further comprising the step of maintaining an

engaged reduction ratio via a driver's command issued to the voice command device (20).

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a driver's voice according to claim 21, further comprising the step of issuing a desired starting reduction ratio via a driver's command issued to the voice command device (20). ❖

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a driver's voice according to claim 21, further comprising the step of providing an easily accessible device for overriding the operation of the voice command device (20). ❖

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a driver's voice according to claim 27, further comprising the step of overriding the operation of the voice command device (20) for a predetermined time interval. ❖

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a driver's voice according to claim 27, further comprising the step of making the overriding of the voice command device accessible exclusively to the driver. ❖

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for shifting a transmission (2) of a vehicle having a voice command device (2) operable by the driver ~~[[by]]~~ via voice commands, the method comprising the steps of: ❖

issuing a driver's voice command (20) to a voice command input device; ❖

comparing the driver's voice command~~[[s]]~~ with reference voice commands stored in a memory (22), and forming a control signal~~[[s therefrom]]~~ in a transmission control (6) from the reference voice commands stored in the memory (22); ❖

before executing a transmission shift, always modifying shifting signals calculated by said transmission control (6) according to the control signals formed from the driver's voice commands to form therefrom a shift command for said variable transmission (2) of the vehicle appropriate to the situation ~~and to correct the shifting signals calculated by said transmission control (6) before executing a transmission shift.~~ ❖

31. (NEW) A method of overriding shifting of a vehicle transmission by a driver's voice, the method comprising the steps of:

generating shift signals in a transmission control (6);

executing shifting of the transmission according to the shift signal generated in the transmission control (6);

when the driver desires to control shifting of the transmission, the driver issuing a voice command (20) to a voice command input device;

converting the voice command to an electronic command signal and outputting the electronic command signal to a voice command convertor device (20) having a memory (22);

comparing the electronic command signal from the driver with a plurality of reference voice commands electronically stored in the memory (22) to select a desired one of the reference voice commands;

forming a transmission control signal based on the selected one of the reference voice commands in the memory (22);

calculating a shift signal in the transmission control (6) based upon the selected one of the reference voice commands;

always overriding the shift signal generated in the transmission control (6) by the electronic command signal generated by the driver's voice command, regardless of the shift signal generated in the transmission control (6), to obtain a new shift signal; and

shifting the transmission based solely upon the new shift signal generated from the driver's voice command.